

Everyday Hero June 2010



From Left to Right: Back Row- Captain Adam Davis, Firefighter Richard Cooper, Technician John Myers, Technician David Puffenberger, and Lieutenant Kenny Fox. Front Row- Firefighter James Shelton, Firefighter Sean Grubbs

On June 25, 2010 Leesburg Fire Station 20 deployed Ladder Truck 601, equipped with rope and other technical rescue equipment to assist in the rescue of an 8 month old, female, Yorkshire Terrier puppy that was feared to have fallen down a sheer bluff of rock located behind the hole she dug under her owner's fenced yard. Captain Adam Davis, Lieutenant Kenny Fox, Technician John Myers, Firefighter's Richard Cooper, James Shelton and Sean Grubbs responded to the bluff and attempted to obtain a visual on the puppy but, they could not see her. Efforts to call to the puppy were unsuccessful, if she was on the bluff; she was either too scared or too injured to respond to their calls. The group used rope and rescue gear and utilized a two line rope system called a balay and sent two people down from the top of the bluff to search an area 20 feet wide, from left to right. For about two hours, they searched but they were unable to locate the puppy.

The puppy's owners continued to search the neighborhood and surrounding area, repeatedly calling out her name. They finally received a faint response of a whimper from the direction of the bluff. They called the Fire Station to request another response. Lieutenant Fox and Firefighter's Richard Cooper, James Shelton and Sean Grubbs returned to the scene. Lieutenant Fox acted as a safety officer and the group anchored the rescue rope. Firefighter James Shelton was sent over the bluff's edge to resume the search. About 6-8 feet down the vertical slope, Firefighter Shelton located the puppy. He found her trembling on a narrow ledge. Firefighter Shelton placed one finger under the puppy's collar and lifted her into a rescue bag. The others on scene raised Firefighter Shelton and the puppy to solid ground. The puppy's owners immediately took her into the house and checked her for injuries. Luckily, the puppy emerged from her ordeal shaken, but otherwise uninjured. The puppy's owners were extremely grateful to have her back safe and sound! For Captain Davis, Lieutenant Fox, Technician Myers and Firefighter's Richard Cooper, James Shelton and Sean Grubbs, June 25, 2010 was just another day at the office, for which they are reluctant to accept praise. For the puppy and for her owner's, the fact that these hero's stand ready everyday to respond wherever their service, equipment and expertise are needed is extraordinary and commendable!